

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, EC, PE
SUBJECT: ECUADOR-PERU BORDER DISPUTE - GOE COMMUNIQUE

REF: (A) LIMA 0514; (B) LIMA 0537

1. THE GOE PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE ON JANUARY 20 RESPONDING TO
THE POINTS RAISED IN THE GOP COMMUNIQUE OF JAN. 18. FOLLOWING
IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF COMMUNIQUE:
BEGIN TEXT

2. IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED YESTERDAY BY THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF PERU IN REFERENCE TO
INCIDENTS ON THE BORDER AREA, THE ORIGIN OF WHICH IT
ATTRIBUTES TO ECUADOR, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATES AS FOLLOWS:

3. ECUADOR, PERMANENTLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONTINUANCE,
WITHOUT A SOLUTION, OF THE TERRITORIAL PROBLEM WITH PERU, HAS
MAINTAINED A POLICY OF A CONSTANTLY ENCOURAGING DIALOGUE
AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REACHING A DEFINITIVE
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UNDERSTANDING THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS.

4. IN THIS SPIRIT, ECUADOR HAS NOT ONLY ABSTAINED
FROM GIVING RISE TO INCIDENTS, BUT IT HAS ALSO SOUGHT A
FRIENDLY SOLUTION FOR SITUATIONS CREATED BY PERUVIAN
SOLDIERS, MANY OF WHICH HAVE FORTUNATELY BEEN SETTLED
IN A HARMONIOUS ATMOSPHERE. SIMILARLY, ECUADOR HAS

ENDEAVORED TO MAINTAIN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN A CLIMATE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

5. THE PERUVIAN COMMUNIQUE OF JANUARY 18, 1978 CONTAINS AFFIRMATIONS WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THE ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY STATES:

1. THE "CLEARED AREA", TO WHICH WE UNDERSTAND THE PERUVIAN COMMUNIQUE REFERS IN PARAGRAPH 1, PLACING IN THE JIMENEZ BANDA SECTOR, IN REALITY IS IN THE ECUADOREAN TANDAIME AREA:

2. LATE IN NOVEMBER 1977, A GROUP OF ECUADOREAN SOLDIERS WHO HAD LOST THEIR WAY IN THE JUNGLE, WAS CAPTURED BY PERUVIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. THE PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES, AFTER A FAIR CONSIDERATION OF THE FACTS, RELEASED THE GROUP.

3. THE HELIPORTS BUILT BY ECUADOR ARE IN ECUADOREAN TERRITORY.

4. DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS PERUVIAN AIRCRAFT HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS VIOLATED ECUADOREAN AIR SPACE. ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS PERUVIAN HELICOPTERS LANDED, WITHOUT ANY APPARENT JUSTIFICATION, NEAR ECUADOREAN UNCLASSIFIED

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GARRISONS. ECUADOR ALWAYS DEALT WITH THESE MATTERS IN A SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING.

5. ON JANUARY 10, 1978, IN THE "HUASAGA" SECTOR OF ECUADOR THE PRESENCE OF A GROUP OF PERSONS WEARING PERUVIAN MILITARY UNIFORMS GAVE RISE TO AN INCIDENT DURING WHICH ONE OF THOSE PERSONS WAS ACCIDENTLY KILLED. ECUADOR EXPRESSED ITS REGRET AND DELIVERED THE BODY TO COMPONENT PERUVIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

6. ON JANUARY 17, 1978 AN ECUADOREAN PATROL WHICH WAS PERFORMING NORMAL DUTY IN THE CONDOR CORDILLERA, WAS STOPPED BY A PATROL COMPOSED OF APPROXIMATELY 20 MEN OF THE PERUVIAN ARMY, WHO OPENED FIRE AND WOUNDED AN ECUADOREAN SOLDIER. ON THE 18TH, AN ECUADOREAN HELICOPTER FLEW TO THAT AREA IN THE CONDOR CORDILLERA AND PICKED UP THE SOLDIER WHO HAD BEEN WOUNDED ON THE PREVIOUS DAY. IT ALSO DISTRIBUTED FOODSTUFFS. WHILE THE HELICOPTER WAS OVERFLYING THE CONDOR CORDILLERA A GROUP OF PERUVIAN SOLDIERS OPENED FIRE ON IT. THE PERSONNEL ON BOARD THE HELICOPTER WAS FORCED TO RETURN FIRE WITH TWO RIFLE BURSTS.

7. YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, THE ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR AND EXPRESSED TO HIM ITS SURPRISE AT THE INCIDENTS, INFORMED HIM OF THE FACTS AS THEY HAD REALLY OCCURRED AND ASKED HIS FOREIGN OFFICE TO ADOPT THE NECESSARY MEASURES FOR RESTORING AN ATMOSPHERE OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

8. IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND GOOD WILL WHICH ECUADOR HAS AT ALL TIMES PRESENTED, YESTERDAY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME GOVERNMENT COUNCIL, VICE ADMIRAL ALFREDO POVEDA BURBANO, CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE THE PRESIDENT OF PERU, GENERAL FRANCISCO MORALES BERMUDEZ AND TOLD HIM OF THE NEED FOR AGREEING ON PROCEDURES, PARTICULARLY FOR COORDINATION BETWEEN THEIR ARMED FORCES, UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH WOULD PREVENT THE OCCURRENCE OF FUTURE INCIDENTS AND RESTORE THE ATMOSPHERE OF CORDIAL RELATIONS THAT SHOULD BE MAINTAINED BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

9. THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR SHARES THE PROFOUND CONCERN EXPRESSED IN THE PERUVIAN COMMUNIQUE ABOUT ANY INCIDENTS THAT MAY OCCUR ON THE BORDER AREA AND ALSO FEELS THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO ADOPT SUCH MEASURES AS WILL PREVENT THEIR BEING REPEATED, SO AS NOT TO ADVERSELY AFFECT PEACE OR PLACE IN JEOPARDY THE BILATERAL RELATIONS WHICH IT DESIRES TO MAINTAIN AT A LEVEL OF AGREEMENT AND FRIENDSHIP.

10. THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR, WHICH HAS REPEATEDLY SHOWN ITS WILLINGNESS TO ACHIEVE A FRIENDLY SOLUTION FOR THE SITUATIONS WHICH HAVE ARISEN, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROTECTING NATIONAL DIGNITY AND SOVEREIGNTY, REAFFIRMS ITS PERMANENT PACIFIST SPIRIT AND ITS WILLINGNESS TO MAINTAIN A CLIMATE OF COEXISTENCE AND FRANK UNDERSTANDING WITH PERU. NATURALLY, IF THIS NOBLE DESIRE IS TO BE FULFILLED, THE COOPERATION OF PERU IS REQUIRED. END TEXT.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
BLOOMFIELD

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